

## From Our Pastor

### April 7, 2018

Sabbath Greetings to everyone!

When aggressive nations make alliances peace loving people need to beware. During the 19th and early 20th centuries European nations regularly formed, annulled and restructured alliances. By 1914 the Great Powers of Europe had formed two alliance blocs. The existence of these two opposing blocs meant that war between two nations would likely mean war between them all, and the result was World War 1.

The Three Emperors' League of 1873 was a three-way alliance between the ruling monarchs of Germany, Austria-Hungary and Russia. This agreement collapsed in 1878 but was followed by the Triple Alliance of 1882 which paved the way for the catastrophe and carnage of 1914-1918. World War 2 was preceded by Germany and Italy signing the Pact of Steel on May 22, 1939 followed by the Tripartite Pact bringing Japan into the Axis alliance on September 27, 1940. The Tripartite Pact allowed three aggressive powers planning to expand their territories to begin their conquests. These three countries recognized German domination over most of continental Europe; Italian domination over the Mediterranean Sea; and Japanese domination over East Asia and the Pacific.

Three of the most aggressive and expansion minded nations today-- nations that seriously threaten peace-- are Russia Iran, and Turkey. Russia has in recent years sent invading troops into Crimea, Ukraine, Georgia, Syria, and the Baltic states. Iran has proxy fighters in Lebanon, Gaza, Afghanistan, Syria, and Yemen, and has an ongoing war of words with Saudi Arabia. Under President Erdogan, Turkey has sent troops into Syria to attack Kurdish areas, killing thousands of civilians in the process. Erdogan has used refugees as a way of extorting billions of Euros from the EU, and is not hiding his efforts to establish one-man-rule as he guides Turkey into becoming an Islamic state with the goal of expanding into the territory of the former Ottoman Empire.

While the US News Media spent last week overdosing the public on possible former girlfriends of the President, the real news was that the leaders of Russia, Turkey and Iran met in Ankara for talks cementing an alliance over Syria in an obvious challenge to US influence in the region. The agreement is alarming because, as the picture of the picture of Iran's President Rouhani, Turkey's President Erdogan, and Russia's President Putin shaking hands and smiling as they met in Ankara shows, there is much more going on.

As reported in [dailymail.co.uk](http://dailymail.co.uk), "Putin supplies both countries with sophisticated military equipment. President Erdogan recently signed a \$2.5 billion arms deal with Russia for S-400 sophisticated anti-aircraft missiles, which has caused consternation among Turkey's fellow NATO members. Russia helps both countries on energy. It is also building Turkey a \$20 billion nuclear power station, and last year Putin signed a \$30 billion energy co-operation deal with Iran."

Through these major deals Russia now finds itself in the position of having influence over Turkey as well as Iran. And these two countries in turn exert huge influence beyond their borders. Iran has been supplying arms to the Taliban in Afghanistan and is fueling the conflict in Yemen. Erdogan has recently been making trips to nations in North Africa, establishing a military presence in a number of locations, most notably at Khartoum on Sudan's Red Sea coast.

Avhal news observed, "The Turkish presence in the ports of the Red Sea is bad news not only for Egypt but also for Saudi Arabia." It is not too difficult to figure out what the Israelis think about the Turks having a base across from them on the Red Sea.

This recent alliance of three nations, who share historical and recent animosity towards Jews and the modern state of Israel, brings to mind Psalm 83. This prophetic Psalm foretells a future gathering of nations against Israel. "They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance. For they have consulted together with one consent: they are confederate against thee: The tabernacles of Edom, and the Ishmaelites; of Moab, .... Ammon, and Amalek; the Philistines with the inhabitants of Tyre; (Psalm 83: 4-7). Interesting that many historians agree that modern Turkey is populated by descendants of Edom, and Ishmael, Ammon, and Amalek are commonly agreed as progenitors of modern Arabs. While this latest three-part alliance should be reported in the news and is cause for grave concern, it may or may not result in a fulfillment of Psalm 83. We will see as events develop. One thing is for sure, all men will have to eventually learn the great truth as told by God's prophet Daniel to Belshazzar, King of Babylon in 539 B.C, "The Most High God rules in the kingdom of men, and appoints over it whomever He chooses."

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